In the United State Patent and Trademark Office

Appn. Number: US 10/599,555 national phase entered on October 1st, 2006

International Appn Nr. : WO 2005/109985 / PCT/EP2005/051404

Applicants: Robert Desbrandes, Daniel L. Van Gent

Tittle : METHOD AND DEVICE FOR MODIFYING THE DEEXCITATION PROBABILITY OF NUCLEAR ISOMERS

Examiner: Mr. Brooke PURINTON

Givarlais, France, 2010 February 28th

Election and Amendments: : Answer to action mailed 12/30/2009

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir,

We would like to thank you for reassessing our application following the unexpected findings of Mrs Johannes MONDT, Examiner, Art Unit 3663 of our patent application 10/599,868 which has the same priority date as this application concerning the possible inherent description of ^{99m}Nb, referred below as 99Nb41m, having the property of entangled metastable isomer nuclides, although neither the entanglement, nor the variable half life is described as such in the Benett's patent Nr. **5,802,439 filed on Feb. 19, 1997.**

We have been studying in details the four patents which you have cited in your action concerning the novelty and inventive step of claim 2 :

- Fehsenfeld (5,674,177),
- Hektner (6,019,718),